November 6, 2012

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

The Detroit News: Michigan voters to decide key races, 6 ballot issues

"... [Voters will] also [decide] on candidates for U.S. Congress, every state House seat, three members for the Michigan Supreme Court and local offices."

Full story

Also see:

The Michigan View: Supreme Left?

Full story

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Stateside: Judge Connie Marie Kelley's case for candidacy

Full story

MLive.com: Truth Squad calls flagrant foul on terrorism charge in court campaign

Full story

The Oakland Press: Early morning lines greet voters across county as Election Day arrives

Full story

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Large turnout expected at the region's polls today

Full story

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Editorial: Voters can send message on funding *Full story*

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Democrats, GOP eye Michigan Supreme Court majority; 3 seats on the 7 court are at stake Tuesday

Full story

Associated Press: High court hears case of judge's mistake

"The [U.S.] Supreme Court appeared inclined Tuesday to rule that a criminal defendant cannot be tried again after a judge acquits him midway through a trial, even if the judge bases his decision on a legal error.... The issue arises in the case of a Michigan man accused of setting fire to a vacant house. The judge stopped the jury trial and acquitted defendant Lamar Evans based on a mistaken reading of the law under which Evans was charged. Michigan appellate courts said Evans could be retried."

Full story

C & G Newspapers/Warren: Circuit court takes step toward paperless system

"Within the next 10 years, Macomb County Circuit Court wants to become the first completely paperless court system in Michigan, outside of the federal system.... Recently, the court found a cheaper way to reach that goal when they chose the Southfield-based company ImageSoft to implement the plan for about \$100,000 less than anticipated."

Full story

C & G Newspapers/Warren: State Police caution drivers about new antitexting law; Troy, Detroit have additional ordinances against cell phone use

"Michigan State Police are reminding drivers of the 'no texting while driving' law that went into effect statewide July 1. Lt. Michael Shaw of the MSP Metro Post in Oak Park said his officers are still seeing

plenty of cases in the tri-county area where drivers are simply not paying attention to the road because they're busy on their cell phones."

Full story

Daily Press & Argus: Lawyer pleads no contest to embezzlement charge

"A Howell attorney accused of embezzling from her clients entered a plea Monday. Christina Theresa Heikkinen, who once ran for a Livingston County District Court judge's seat, pleaded no contest to embezzling at least \$1,000 but less than \$20,000 from one of her clients."

Full story

Dowagiac Daily News: Treatment grants exceed \$1 million

"Cass County commissioners Nov. 1 established a budget for year one of a three-year, \$750,000 substance abuse and mental health services grant awarded to Family Treatment Court.... Cass County maintains three such courts, Adult Treatment Court, Family Treatment Court and District Court's Sobriety Court for drunk driving misdemeanors."

Full story

Flint Journal: Judge orders Flint workers' compensation office to hear man's case locally

"... Genesee County Circuit Judge Geoffrey L. Neithercut ruled in favor of plaintiff Lawrence Younkin, Monday, Nov. 5, after Younkin's attorney Robert MacDonald filed a complaint in 7th Circuit Court against the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's plan to close the Flint Workers' Compensation Agency."

Full story

Grand Haven Tribune: St. Joe County makes ballot fix in court race

"Ballots in a southwestern Michigan county have the wrong race for state appeals court. St. Joseph County officials said the District 3 appeals court race shouldn't be on the ballot. St. Joseph County now is in District 1. An extra ballot was printed in time for today's election."

Full story

Kalamazoo Gazette: Election 2012: 5 results to watch for tonight in Southwest Michigan

"... There are numerous open seats in Southwest Michigan, including Kalamazoo County prosecutor, Van Buren Circuit Court judge, and district and probate court judges in St. Joseph County. Since there is no incumbent, it could really be open to any candidate."

Full story

Kalamazoo Gazette: New trial denied for Jeffery Fry in 1998 Kalamazoo shooting

"A Kalamazoo County Circuit Court judge has denied a prisoner's request to pursue 'newly discovered evidence' in his case, stating that the information doesn't meet any of the necessary legal criteria.... Following preliminary review of the findings, Judge J. Richardson Johnson declined to schedule an evidentiary hearing or other proceedings."

Full story

The MiLW Blog: Axe appointed to judges' retirement board

"John Axe, of Grosse Pointe Farms, has been appointed to the Michigan Judges Retirement System Board. The five-member board oversees the Judges Retirement System Defined Benefit plan."

Full story

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon man, 18, charged with perjury, could face up to life sentence

"... [Tirell Anton] Mitchell was arraigned Friday on a charge of perjury at a court proceeding for a capital crime, meaning a crime with a maximum sentence of life in prison. Perjury at such a proceeding is itself punishable by up to life or any term of years in prison."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: Annual Tailgate lunch features finest football cuisine

"On Friday, Oct. 19, at the Oakland County Circuit Court it was a 'house divided' as Michigan and Michigan State fans warmed up for the big game with a tailgate luncheon that featured the finest in football cuisine. Circuit Court Judge Mary Ellen Brennan, a proud Spartan alum, is the brains behind the annual affair and welcomes friendly rivals like Circuit Court Judge James Alexander."

Full story

Oakland County Legal News: New hearing ordered in Detroit fireman's death

"The Michigan appeals court has ordered a new hearing to determine the prison sentence for a man whose fire killed a Detroit firefighter. Mario Willis was sentenced to at least 41 years in prison for second-degree murder."

Full story

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Justice's stepdaughter involved in property shuffle currently seeking her own short sale

"Not long after she unloaded her home on Lake St. Clair through a short sale, Supreme Court Justice Diane Hathaway and her husband moved to a 2,400 square foot home on Grosse Pointe Park's Balfour Street."

Full story

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: 7 Action News Investigators: Tracking the judge

"The 7 Action News Investigators are taking action for you; holding a local judge accountable. The problem; she's coming into work hours late, day after day.... On top of that, the judge has people sitting in her courtroom for hours waiting for her to show up from work, putting justice on hold."

Full story